

Message Text

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12

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 FS-01 OES-06 /025 W

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R 101300Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1886

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PASS HEW/RSA FOR DR. GARRETT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, EG, PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: DHEW/OHD/RSA/SFCP - TRAVEL OF DR. HASSAN SABRY

EL KHOULY

REF: (A) STATE 72836, (B) STATE 58833

1. IN CONNECTION WITH DR. HASSAN SABRY EL KHOULY'S VISIT TO THE US, HE TELEPHONE AMB YESTERDAY TO SAY THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED TRAVEL TO THE US MUST BE TOURIST CLASS. EL-KHOULY ASSERTED HE HAS NEVER TRAVELLED TOURIST CLASS ANYWHERE. HE WILL NOT DO SO NOW. HE ASKED THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL FIRST CLASS.

2. COMMENT: THIS KIND OF A PROBLEM WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED. EL-KHOULY WAS FOR MANY YEARS ONE OF NASSER'S CLOSEST CONFIDANTES AND THE PRINCIPAL US EMBASSY CONTACT IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. HE DID MUCH IN THE 60'S TO KEEP DIFFICULT US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS FROM BECOMING EVEN MORE BOILED. WHILE OUT OF FAVOR UNDER THE SADAT REGIME, IT IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT AN ERSTWHILE SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL OF EL-KHOULY'S STANDING WOULD REGARD IT AS DEMEANING TO BE INVITED BY USG AND ASKED TO TRAVEL TOURIST. PERHAPS IT SHOULD NOT BE THAT WAY, BUT HEW SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN PERSONS OF THAT DISTINCTION, PAST OR PRESENT, ARE INVITED, NORMAL PROCEDURES WILL NOT SUFFICE.

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3. IN CIRCUMSTANCE, WE SUGGEST THAT HEW/RSA AND DEPT MAKE
AN EXCEPTION IN EL-KHOULY'S CASE AND AUTHORIZE FIRST
CLASS TRAVEL. THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING THE TRIP
START OFF ON A SOUR NOTE. WE RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL
PROBLEM OF SETTING PRECEDENT, BUT BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE
MANAGEABLE.
EILTS

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